

REMARKS

The present Amendment is submitted under 37 CFR 1.312 after issuance of the Notice of Allowance. The present Amendment was not submitted earlier since the errors in claim 12, which errors were added in the September 16, 2004 Amendment, were not noticed earlier. Entry of the present Amendment will not require any substantial work on the part of PTO personnel. Therefore, entry of the present Amendment is respectfully requested.

In item 13 on page 11 of the Office Action dated June 16, 2004, claims 12-16 and 26-27 were indicated by the Examiner to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Original claim 12 depended from claims 1, 8-9 and 11.

In lines 14-15 of the Remarks section of the September 16, 2004 Amendment, claim 12 was erroneously described as being rewritten in independent form to include the limitations originally presented in claims "1 and 8-11." Claim 12, however, was not rewritten to include the limitations of original claim 10 since original claim 12 did not depend from claim 10. Claim 10 was cancelled from the application, and the limitations originally presented therein were not re-presented in claim 12 or any of the claims depending therefrom.

Furthermore, the Applicant inadvertently failed to include the limitations originally presented in claim 9 in rewritten claim 12. That is, claim 12, as amended in the September 16, 2004 Amendment, only included the limitations originally presented in claims 1, 8 and 11.

Accordingly, the present Amendment serves to ensure proper disclosure and protection of the present invention by rewriting claim 12 to include all of the limitations originally presented in cancelled claims 1, 8-9 and 11.

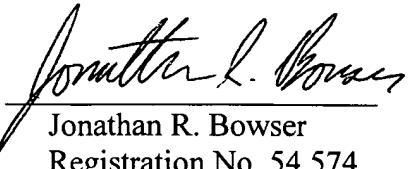
In view of the Examiner's assertion that claims 12-16 and 26-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 12, as well as claims 13-16 and 26-27 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the present Amendment be entered to ensure the proper disclosure and protection of the present invention, and to ensure that

claim 12 is amended in the manner which the Examiner indicated to be allowable in item 13 on page 11 of the June 16, 2004 Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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